

## HIGHLIGHTS

This report depicts the health status and health habits of contemporary North Carolinians. In general, it spans a period of about twenty years, from a decade ago to a decade hence.

Compared to residents a decade ago, today's North Carolinians are living longer and have greater income and more education. More citizens are non-native and nonfarming. At the same time, the state has recently experienced renewed growth in its nonmetropolitan population, and nonwhites have migrated into the state rather than out as during the sixties. Compared to a decade ago, North Carolinians are also having fewer marriages, more divorces; fewer births, more legal abortions; fewer family households, more single parenting; fewer housewives, more working women and more children in day care; fewer deaths, more residents in nursing homes. Taken together, these changing characteristics of the populace are creating additional pressures on the state's health care resources.

And compared to our fellow Americans, today's North Carolinians are realizing:

- Greater population growth and faster aging;
- Higher rates of poverty;
- Higher enrollment in schools but fewer high school graduates;
- Greater participation in the labor force, especially by women;
- High employment in manufacturing at minimum average wages;
- Greater reductions in births but higher rates at young ages;
- More mothers at risk of unsuccessful pregnancy and more infants lost;
- Better immunization of our children;
- More gonorrhea, TB, and certain other diseases;
- About the same declines in general mortality;
- Greater increases in overall cancer mortality with above-average risk for nonwhite males;